(b) The Primary Health Centres are established and maintained by the State Government under State Sector Minimum Needs Programme. 100 per cent Central Assistance is provided to the States for Rural Family Welfare Centres, Post Partum Centres, Urban Family Welfare Centres and Urban Health Posts. Details of the amount allocated to these Centres during 1995-96 and 1996-97 is given in the Statement attached.

STATEMENT

Amount allocated to the State of Maharashtra during 1995-96 and 1996-97

(Rs. in lakhs)

	1995-96	1996-97
Minimum Needs Programme	7034.00	9488.00
Rural Family Welfare Centres	1260.00	1270.00
Post Partum Centres	375.00	376.00
Urban Family Welfare Centres	100.00	95.00
Urban Health Posts	540.00	556.00

* Allocation under MNP/BMS

Stay Facility to Patients

120. DR. M.P. JAISWAL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether patients and their relatives who come from other States have to run around the hospitals of Delhi and have to stay on pavements;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to provide sufficient stay facilities for them;

(c) whether the Government propose to set up any special cell for them so that they may not face any difficulty in getting treatment; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY) : (a) and (b) Adequate facilities for night stay to the waiting patients/their attendants are available at Safdarjung Hospital, All India Institute of Medical Sciences. Such facilities are not available in Dr. R.M.L. Hospital. At Kalavati Saran Children Hospital, there is a sarai and shed for nightshelter. At Smt. S.K. Hospital there are no residential facilities for relatives of patients but the relatives stay at a nearby Dharmsala situated a little away from the Hospital.

(c) and (d) There is no proposal to set up any special cell. However, the various facilities provided by Central Government hospitals are upgraded depending upon the availability of resources.

[English]

CHOGM Meet

121. SHRI B.L. SHANKAR :
SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL :
SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state;

(a) the details of important matters discussed at the recently held (CHOGM) Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in Edinburgh;

(b) the matters which were raised by the Indian Prime Minister;

(c) to what extent the meeting is likely to help India on the diplomatic and international relations level; and

(d) the extent of success achieved by India in CHOGM Meet?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI): (a) A copay each of the Edinburgh Communique and the Edinburgh Commonwealth Economic Declaration issued by the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) at Edinburgh on 27 October, 1997 are given in the Statement I and II attached.

(b) A copy of the address by the Prime Minister of India, on behalf of all participating Heads of Government, at the Opening Ceremony, is given in the Statement III attached.

(c) and (d) The Meeting provided both an opportunity and a forum for our Prime Minister to exchange views on important issues with other Commonwealth Heads of Government. These interalia included trade, investment, development, the environment, terrorism in all its manifestations, illegal trafficking in drugs and arms and money laundering. These and other issues of interest to India were prominently reflected in the Communique and the Economic declaration.

STATEMENT I

Bulletin

Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting, Edinburgh, October 1997: the Edinburgh Communique

Related Links

1. Commonwealth Heads of Government met in Edinburgh from 24-27 October 1997. Of the 51 countries which attended the Meeting, 43 were represented by Heads of State or Prime Ministers. The Meeting was chaired by the British Prime Minister, the Rt. Hon. Tony Blair.

2. The Opening Session of the Meeting was addressed by her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, Head of the Commonwealth.

3. Heads of Government expressed satisfaction at the return of Fiji on 1 October 1997 to the Commonwealth, as its 54 member state.

4. Heads of Government congratulated the Governments and peoples of India and Pakistan who have recently celebrated their 50th anniversaries of independence.

5. Heads of Government conveyed their appreciation for the excellent arrangements made for their Meeting and the warm hospitality extended by the British Government and people, as well as for the Chairman's admirable conduct of the Meeting.

6. Heads of Government adopted the Edinburgh Commonwealth Economic Declaration on Promoting Shared Prosperity, which they saw as a fitting complement to the Harare Commonwealth Declaration of 1991.

7. Heads of Government expressed concern about the special problems of the Least Developed Countries (LDCs). To enable them to share the benefits of globalisation, they invited donors to work for the target of 0.15 per cent of GNP for LDCs. They also resolved to promote the role of micro credit in poverty reduction.

8. Heads of Government received with satisfaction the attached Report of the Chairman of the Ministerial Group on Small States. They also welcomed the Report of an Advisory Group, A Future for Small States: Overcoming Vulnerability, as an important Commonwealth contribution towards addressing the particular concerns of small states, and agreed on a package of measures to alleviate these concerns.

9. Heads of Government reaffirmed their commitment to the fundamental values of the Commonwealth, as set out in the Harare Commonwealth Declaration of 1991 and emphasised that democracy, good governance, sustainable development and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms were interdependent and mutually reinforcing. They commended the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association for its work in strengthening the democratic culture and effective parliamentary practices, and its efforts to enhance the participation of women in public life.

10. Heads of Government reaffirmed their support for the valuable role played by the Secretary-General's good offices, at the request of the concerned member governments, to help resolve potential or actual conflicts.

11. Heads of Government received the Report from the Commonwealth Ministerial Action Group on the Harare Declaration (CMAG) covering three countries, viz. The Gambia, Nigeria and Sierra Leone, and accepted its recommendations.

12. They welcomed the completion of the electoral phase of the transition to civilian, democratic and constitutional rule in the Gambia and received the assurances of the Gambian authorities that they would further demonstrate their stated commitment to the Harare principles.

13. Heads of Government observed that the continued existence of a military government in Nigeria was a prime source of Commonwealth concern. They expressed concern about the failure to observe fundamental human rights, in particular the continued detention and imprisonment of many Nigerians, including Chief Moshood Abiola and General Olusegun Obasanjo. Accordingly, they decided that Nigeria should remain suspended from the Commonwealth.

14. They noted the positive contribution which Nigeria has been making to efforts through Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) in support of democratic government within the West African region, and expressed the hope that his reflected a determination to comply within the Harare principles in its domestic policies.

15. Heads of Government also empowered CMAG to invoke, in the period before 1 October 1998, Commonwealth-wide implementation of any or all of the measures recommended by CMAG if, in CMAG's view, these would serve to encourage greater integrity of the process of transition and respect for human rights in Nigeria. These included:

- visa restrictions on members of the Nigerian regime and their families;
- the withdrawal of military attachés;
- the cessation of military training;
- an embargo on the export of arms;
- the denial of educational facilities to members of the Nigerian regime and their families;

- a visa-based ban on all sporting contacts;
- a downgrading of cultural links; and
- the downgrading of diplomatic missions.

16. Heads of Government agreed that, following 1 October 1998, CMAG should assess whether Nigeria had satisfactorily completed a credible programme for the restoration of democracy and civilian government. They further agreed that if, in that assessment, Nigeria had completed a credible transition to democratic government and to observance of the Harare principles, then the suspension will be lifted; and if not and it remained in serious violation of the Harare principles, Heads of Government would consider Nigeria's expulsion from the association and the introduction of further measures in consultation with other members of the international community as recommended by CMAG. Such measures would include a mandatory oil embargo, a ban on air-links with Nigeria and the freezing of the financial assets and bank accounts in foreign countries of members of the regime and their families.

17. Heads of Government strongly condemned the military coup in Sierra Leone in May 1997, which resulted in the unconstitutional overthrow of its democratically-elected government, and called for the immediate reinstatement of President Ahmad Tejan Kabbah, whom they welcomed to their Meeting. They endorsed the decision taken by CMAG, in accordance with the provisions of the Millbrook Commonwealth Action Programme, that pending the restoration of the legitimate government, the participation of the illegal regime of Sierra Leone in the councils of the Commonwealth should remain suspended.

18. Heads of Government welcomed UN Security Council Resolution 1132(1997) imposing petroleum, weapons and travel sanctions on the military junta in Sierra Leone and authorising ECOWAS to impose economic measures against the regime. They urged member governments to co-operate in the implementation of these sanctions, and in ensuring the continued isolation of the regime in Freetown within the Commonwealth and the wider international community. They agreed to assist the victims of the situation in Sierra Leone in their own countries, as well as in other countries of the commonwealth which may request such assistance. They pledged the support of the Commonwealth for the efforts of ECOWAS to resolve the Sierra Leone crisis, including the provision of technical and logistical support to enable ECOWAS to carry out its responsibilities. They also pledged Commonwealth support for the reconstruction of Sierra Leone upon the resolution of the crisis. In the meantime, they looked forward to further clarification of the reported agreement between the ECOWAS Ministerial delegation and the military junta that the latter would demit office and allow the reinstatement of President Tejan Kabbah in six months' time.

19. Heads of Government reviewed the composition, terms of reference and operation of CMAG. They decided that CMAG should continue its work as a standing ministerial mechanism to address serious and persistent violations of the principles of the Harare Commonwealth Declaration. They agreed that CMAG should, in the two-year period after the Edinburgh CHOGM, consist of the following countries: Barbados, Botswana, Britain, Canada, Ghana, Malaysia, New Zealand and Zimbabwe. They further agreed that in future CMAG's remit should extend to member countries deemed to be in serious or persistent violation of the Harare principles, on the basis of established guidelines. They decided that the Commonwealth Secretary-General, acting on his/her own or at the request of a member government, should bring the situation in question to the attention of the CMAG membership, which would then include it or otherwise in its work programme in the light of its guiding principles.

20. Heads of Government received and endorsed a report from the Intergovernmental Group on Criteria for Commonwealth Membership. They agreed that in order to become a member of the Commonwealth, an applicant country should, as a rule, have had a constitutional association with an existing Commonwealth member; that it should comply with Commonwealth values, principles and priorities as set out in the Harare Declaration; and that it should accept Commonwealth norms and conventions.

21. Recalling Palestine's historic association with the Commonwealth, Heads of Government welcomed the interest expressed by the Palestinian Authority in Commonwealth membership. They recognised that, under the Oslo Accords, Palestine may attain state sovereignty in 1999. Once this was so, the case for membership would be duly determined in accordance with the agreed criteria for Commonwealth membership. Heads of Government also considered applications for membership of the Commonwealth from Rwanda and Yemen and agreed that these should be kept under review in the context of the criteria endorsed by them.

22. Heads of Government reaffirmed their support for the sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity and unity of the Republic of Cyprus. They called for the implementation of United Nations resolutions on Cyprus, in particular Security Council Resolutions 365 (1974), 550 (1984) and 939 (1994). They regretted that negotiations on a solution have been at an impasse for too long and strongly supported the process of direct intercommunal talks under the UN Secretary-General's mission of good offices. They expressed concern about recent threats of use of force and integration of the occupied territory by Turkey and reiterated support for President Clerides's demilitarisation proposal. They called

for the withdrawal of all Turkish forces and settlers, the return of the refugees to their homes, the restoration of and respect for human rights of all Cypriots and the accounting of all missing persons. They expressed concern and disappointment that progress had been impeded by the efforts of the Turkish Cypriot side to introduce pre-conditions to the talks and called for a co-operative attitude from all sides for the achievement of a comprehensive, just and workable settlement on the basis of a bi-communal and bi-zonal federation. While noting the existence of the Commonwealth Action Group on Cyprus, they welcomed the initiative of the Commonwealth Secretary-General to nominate an observer at the UN-sponsored negotiations. They recognised the Britain as a permanent member of the Security Council and as a guarantor Power has a special position in this matter.

23. Heads of Government reaffirmed their strong support for the territorial integrity, security and sovereignty of Belize. They welcomed the consultations and co-operation between Guatemala and Belize on the implementation of confidence-building measures and called for continued dialogue at the highest levels. They encouraged Guatemala to recognise the constitutional borders of Belize to allow for an early settlement of their outstanding claim. They reiterated their request to the Secretary-General to convene the Commonwealth Ministerial Committee on Belize whenever necessary.

24. Heads of Government reaffirmed their strongest condemnation of acts of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, which destabilise the political, economic and social order of sovereign states. They reiterated their determination to combat terrorism, whether perpetrated by individuals, groups or states, by every means possible consistent with human rights and the rule of law. They also recognised the linkages between terrorism, illegal trafficking in drugs and arms, and money laundering. They welcomed the growing international consensus in fighting terrorism, and in particular the steps taken towards a UN Convention on Suppression of Terrorist Bombings, and hope that this would contribute to the development of a comprehensive legal framework. They also called on all states to enact laws to make punishable acts of conspiracy within their jurisdictions to commit terrorist offences.

25. Heads of Government addressed the serious humanitarian crisis caused by anti-personnel mines and noted the negotiation of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction, adopted in Oslo on 18 September 1997. They invited Commonwealth and other countries in a position to do so to consider joining the original signatories of this convention when it first opens for signature in Ottawa on 3 December 1997. They stressed that an effective solution to the global problem of anti-personnel mines would only be possible through effective international co-operation in all relevant fora including, inter alia, the United Nations, the Conference on Disarmament, regional organisations and groupings and enhanced international assistance for mine clearance and for the care and rehabilitation and economic integration, of mine victims.

26. In acknowledging the multi-faceted problems affecting the Mediterranean, Heads of Government welcomed the Euro-Mediterranean Conference in 1995 and its follow-up conference in Malta in 1997, and affirmed their support to the international and regional institutions committed to the promotion of peace and security in Mediterranean region.

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27. Heads of Government expressed their belief that an International Criminal Court (ICC) would be an important development in the international promotion of the rule of law. They expressed support for the efforts of the UN Preparatory Committee to negotiate a Statute for an ICC and encouraged participation in those negotiations and in the Plenipotentiary Conference next year by as many Commonwealth countries as possible.

28. Heads of Government considered various aspects of Commonwealth functional co-operation, which they reaffirmed as essential for translating the benefits of membership to member states. They endorsed the attached Report of the Committee of the Whole and requested the Secretariat to intensify its efforts to establish priorities in these areas, based on the Commonwealth's comparative advantage.

29. Heads of Government accepted with great pleasure the offer of the Government of South Africa to host their next Meeting in 1999, and the offer of Australia to host their Meeting in 2001.

STATEMENT II

Bulletin

Promoting Shared Prosperity: Edinburgh Commonwealth Economic Declaration

Related Links

1. Today's globalised world poses both opportunities and challenges. Expanding trade and investment flows, driven by new technologies and the spread of market forces, have emerged as engines of growth. At the same time, not all countries have benefited equally from the globalisation of the world economy, and a significant number are threatened with marginalisation. Globalisation therefore needs to be carefully managed to meet the risks inherent in the process.

2. We believe that world peace, security and social stability cannot be achieved in conditions of deep poverty and growing inequality. special measures are needed to correct this, and in particular to help the integration of countries, especially small states and the Least Developed Countries, in the global economy and address the uneven development that threatens many countries. To redress these problems, we believe the following broad principled approaches should be pursued:

- the world economy should be geared towards promoting universal growth and prosperity for all;
- there must be effective participation by all countries in economic decision-making in key international fora;
- the removal of obstacles that prevent developing countries playing their full part in shaping the evolution of the global economy; and
- international regimes affecting economic relations among nations should provide symmetrical benefits for all.

3. We also believe that commitment to market principles, openness to international trade and investment, the development of human and physical resources, gender equality, and good governance and political stability remain major components of economic and social progress; and that wealth creation requires partnerships between governments and the private sector. The Commonwealth, with its shared traditions and global reach, is uniquely placed to play a key role in promoting shared prosperity amongst its members.

Trade

4. We welcome the progress made in recent years in dismantling trade barriers and establishing a rule-based international trading system. However, significant barriers to trade in goods and services remain, and the benefits of the expansion of world trade are still unevenly shared. We have therefore resolved to:

- support expansion of duty-free market access with flexible rules of origin for the exports of the Least Developed Countries; work for a successor arrangement to the Lomé Convention which, without prejudice to the outcome, gives the ACP countries, particularly small states, adequate transitional arrangements; and in particular, encourage the EU and WTO members to accommodate the legitimate interests of the ACP banana producers and facilitate the diversification of their economies;
- strengthen the multilateral trading system within the framework of the WTO, in order to prevent regional arrangements from becoming exclusive trading blocs and provide for the greatest flow of international trade on the basis of agreed rules which are fair and equitable; and support the full implementation of the Uruguay Round Agreements;
- oppose the introduction of new no-tariff barriers and the use of unilateral actions and bilateral pressures which run counter to the spirit of the WTO;
- maintain the momentum towards freer trade through multilateral negotiations, as outlined in the built-in agenda and other issues under discussion in the WTO, including progress on agriculture and financial and other services, taking into account the interests of all countries at different stages of development; and
- continue to support regional arrangements, consistent with multilateral liberalisation under the WTO, which promote the economic growth of their members.

Specifically we have decided to:

- establish a Trade and Investment Access Facility under the Commonwealth umbrella to assist developing countries with the process of adjusting to, and taking advantage of, the opportunities of globalisation. The new Facility will provide technical assistance to help countries identify and manage the potential economic and social impacts of trade in goods and services and investment liberalisation; identify new sources of revenue and market opportunities; and help countries fulfil WTO requirements. The Facility will be co-ordinated with the proposed WTO/UNCTAD/ITC integrated framework for trade-related technical assistance;
- explore the scope for deepening trade relationships among Commonwealth members, and therefore request the Secretariat to report to us, before the 1999 CHOGM, on the scope and possible systems and mechanisms for improving trade among members of the Commonwealth, in ways which are consistent with the provisions of the WTO and regional trading arrangements;
- launch a Commonwealth action programme to remove administrative obstacles to trade by simplifying and harmonising customs procedures, disseminating information, and eliminating bureaucratic and technical hurdles;

- examine the growing importance of 'electronic commerce' in trade and the developmental implications of the use of cyberspace for commercial and financial transactions; and

- promote Commonwealth Export Training Centres for management training in exporting and other trade-related skills.

5. We welcome the recommendations of the first ever Commonwealth Business Forum held in London on 22-23 October 1997. We believe that the Forum can be an important link between the private and public sectors and foster vibrant private sector business links. It should continue to meet every two years. We are also arranging to set up a Business Council, under Lord Cairns and Mr Cyril Ramaphosa, made up of small group of major private sector leaders from different regions of the Commonwealth, as well as other mechanisms, in consultation with the Commonwealth Secretary-General, to encourage greater private sector involvement in the promotion of trade and investment. In this context, we also agree to support and strengthen the work of the Commonwealth Partnership for Technology Management.

Investment

6. We believe that investment flows can bring substantial benefits, and that sound marco-economic policies and financial systems, strong regulatory and supervisory frameworks and political stability are essential in encouraging inward flows. At the same time, we recognise that volatility in such flows can greatly complicate economic management. They also remain concentrated in a few regions and countries. We agree to:

- encourage investment flows by establishing an open and transparent investment regimes for business activity, and by simplifying bureaucratic procedures and regulations;

- encourage capital exporting countries, where it is prudent, to consider relaxing restrictions on institutional investors to enable them to take advantage of portfolio diversification opportunities in emerging and new markets;

- support the development of regional and multilateral arrangements and infrastructure that take into account the realities of developing countries, and that can help to facilitate private capital flows;

- study the lessons to be learned from recent developments in currency markets and in particular on how countries can be protected from the destabilising effects of market volatility, including those resulting from speculative activities, and how the effectiveness of existing early warning systems can be improved; and

- support strengthening of global and regional mechanisms to help countries handle capital market volatility.

Specifically we have decided to:

- endorse the recommendations of the Commonwealth working group on the role of national and international policies in promoting private capital flows, and call for the rapid finalisation of a Commonwealth Code of Good Practice for national policies that attract and sustain private capital flows;

- welcome the launch of the Africa Fund, the Kula Fund for the Pacific, and the South Asia Regional Fund under the aegis of the Commonwealth Private Investment Initiative (CPII); and call for the extension of CPII to embrace additional regions and sectors;

- launch a Commonwealth investment promotion programme which will: help establish enabling environments for attracting private investment flows; encourage the creation of new mechanisms for risk insurance and guarantees; provide assistance for strengthening supervisory and regulatory frameworks; and improve the flow of information on investment opportunities; and

- encourage 'smart partnerships' involving the private and public sectors.

Development

7. We welcome the improving growth prospects in many parts of the developing world, including evidence of recovery in Sub-Saharan Africa. At the same time, we remain concerned at the persistence of extreme poverty in many countries and the lack of capacity to reduce it. We have therefore agreed to:

- work to halve the proportion of people living in extreme poverty by the year 2015;

- seek to reverse the decline in Official Development Assistance (ODA) flows recognising the role of ODA as an essential instrument of partnership for development and poverty reduction in developing countries, particularly the Least Developed

Countries and small states, and for helping to create the conditions for increased trade and investment, including skills and infrastructure development;

- work towards a comprehensive solution of the debt problem, and pursue vigorously the rapid implementation of the Highly Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) Initiative, in line with the Mauritius Mandate, which has the aim of enabling HIPC countries to have embarked by the year 2000 on securing a sustainable exit from their debt burden; as well as consider extending such relief to other developing countries, including small states, in similar circumstances; and

- promote the role of micro-credit schemes in reducing poverty through increased assistance from the international community.

8. We welcome the Report of the Chairman of the Commonwealth Ministerial Group on Small States and its recommendations for action based on the Commonwealth Report, *A Future for Small States: Overcoming Vulnerability.* In particular, we encourage international financial institutions to review their graduation policies, consider broader criteria covering the special vulnerabilities of their smaller members, and establish a task force to address the concerns of small states. We endorse the recommendation to set up a small ministerial group to discuss small states' concerns with major multilateral agencies and to report to governments on the outcome as soon as possible.

9. We underscore the importance of good governance including increased openness in economic decision-making and the elimination of corruption through greater transparency, accountability and the application of the rule of law in economic, financial and other spheres of activity. We endorse the request by our Finance Ministers to the Commonwealth Secretary-General to establish an expert group to work on these issues.

Environment

10. We have a shared interest in protecting our environment, a global resource in which all countries have a stake. The costs of protecting it should be borne in accordance with shared and differentiated responsibilities. It is therefore incumbent on the global community to strengthen co-operation to achieve sustainable development, so that we can protect our planet for future generations. In particular, we look to a successful outcome at the Kyoto Conference of Parties to the UN Convention on Climate Change, involving realistic and achievable goals, significant reductions in greenhouse gas emissions and recognition that we all need to play a role.

We have therefore agreed to:

- endorse the Programme for the Future Implementation of Agenda 21 as agreed by this year's UN General Assembly Special Session, particularly in respect of freshwater, forest resources and the transfer of environmentally sound technologies to developing countries. We recognise that new and additional resources will be needed to implement the programmes and will use our best endeavours to provide these;

- underline the importance of a successful outcome at Kyoto, with all countries playing their part within the Berlin Mandate, with developed countries pursuing vigorously an outcome that would produce significant reductions in their greenhouse gas emissions through the adoption of a protocol or other legal instrument;

- call on the Kyoto Conference to recognise that, after Kyoto, all countries will need to play their part by pursuing policies that would result in significant reductions of greenhouse gas emissions if we are to solve a global problem that affects us all;

- call for agreement at Kyoto to arrangements to monitor the reduction of emissions regularly;

- initiate action in the international community to strengthen disaster relief response and mechanisms for the provision of urgent and adequate assistance to small states that suffer the effects of natural disasters which are increasing in frequency and magnitude; and

- welcome the contribution of the Iwokrama International Rain Forest Programme in Guyana to the implementation of the Rio agreements on forests, biodiversity and climate change, and agree to use our best endevours to increase resources to sustain the Programme and catalyse further international funding.

Return to today's 'CHOGM Bulletin'

Conclusion

11. In pursuance of these commitments, we agree to enhance the Commonwealth's role in building consensus on global economic issues and on an equitable structuring of international economic relations.

12. We also agree to sustain and where possible increase bilateral assistance among our members; and to ensure the flow of resources to the Secretariat and its various

Funds, especially the Commonwealth Fund for Technical Co-operation (CFTC); and to the Commonwealth Foundation, Commonwealth of Learning (COL) and the Commonwealth Partnership for Technology Management (CPTM).

13. We believe the Commonwealth can play a dynamic role in promoting trade and investment so as to enhance prosperity, accelerate economic growth and development and advance the eradication of poverty in the 21st Century. We plan to pursue this with vigour.

Edinburgh International Conference Centre
25 October 1997

STATEMENT III

[Please Check against delivery]
Embargoed for release at
1430 hrs on 24th October, 1997 (1900 IST)

ADDRESS BY THE PRIME MINISTER OF INDIA
SHRI I.K. GUJRAL
AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE
COMMONWEALTH HEADS OF GOVERNMENT
MEETING (CHOGM)
EDINBURGH 24TH OCTOBER, 1997

Your Majesty,
Your Royal Highnesses,
Prime Minister Blair,
Mr. Secretary General,
Heads of Government,
Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I consider it a privilege to be invited to speak on behalf of the participating Heads of Government.

Your Majesty, it so happens that this Commonwealth Summit coincides with the Golden Jubilee of Independence of India and Pakistan. We in South Asia, belong to civilisations dating back to the dawn of history. Our milestones are shared. Our joys are common. For India, it is a matter of pride that it has, in these last fifty years, emerged as a self-confident society: united, democratic, secular, and firmly set on the path of modernisation and sustained economic growth.

Our independence in 1947 acted as the spur to the independence of over a hundred countries in the post-war era. We acknowledge that the principles on which we gained our own freedom *constituted a turning point in history:* a decisive step towards the end of subjugation and colonisation, and the beginning of a new world order based on equality, equity and respect for sovereignty.

The Indian Republic chose to remain in the Commonwealth. We did not wish to make the promise of the future a hostage to the rancour of the past. This was our approach, because the principles underlying our freedom struggle were universal: the dignity and equality of man. Our fight was against imperialism, not against a people or a country.

Your Majesty,
Excellencies,

The Commonwealth is a voluntary association of sovereign and independent States, bringing together peoples of many races, religions and continents. Among its members are the non-aligned and the aligned, the poor and the rich, the North and the South, and the big and the small. Within itself, it represents the widest range of global aspirations. It accommodates differences even as it values consensus.

The Commonwealth has also evolved over the years. What began as the British Commonwealth was transformed in 1949, when India joined, into a free association of independent member nations. At that time, Your Majesty, the end to colonialism was in sight, but the process was not yet complete. The years that followed saw the light of freedom illuminating almost every corner of the globe. The process of decolonisation was truly complete with the emergence of a multi-racial and democratic South Africa in 1994.

Now, at the close of one of the most remarkable centuries mankind has witnessed, the Commonwealth is, I believe, entering a third phase, with a clear-cut task before it: *to forge a shared vision for the new millennium* that is upon us and the challenges and opportunities that it will bring.

The 20th century has seen tensions, divisions and wars more brutal than ever before. Yet it has also been a beneficial age. Some 200 nations are today free, aspiring to be equal partners with an equal voice in shaping mankind's destiny. The boundaries of human possibility have expanded manifold, and men and women around the world live longer and fuller lives today than ever in the past.

Even so, can we forget that human history has, for too long, been one of war and oppression, punctuated with only a few intervals of peace and freedom? This really is the challenge of the times, of strengthening the peace, the freedoms, the spirit and essence of a global brotherhood that post-War institutions such as the Commonwealth represent.

How does one ensure a just ordering of relations amongst nations, so that the interests of the one are seen in harmony with the interests of the world community? Can we make global democracy credible? How do we overcome narrow nationalism's and learn that, ultimately, it is in giving

that we gain, in sharing that we grow, and only in serving a larger good that we really serve ourselves? These are issues statesmanship today must address.

Shortly after assuming responsibility as India's first Prime Minister, Jawaharlal Nehru observed, and I quote: "I have become more and more convinced that so long as we do not recognise the supremacy of moral law in our national and international relations, we shall have no enduring peace. So long as we do not adhere to the right means, the end will not be right and fresh evils will flow from it. That was the essence of Gandhiji's message, and mankind will have to appreciate it in order to see and act clearly."

Can we in the Commonwealth take a lead in defining an international ethic, a morality such as we seek to practice in our personal lives, of treating others as we would wish ourselves to be treated; a world where honour is respected, where truth and natural justice prevail?

Such an aspiration is especially relevant, given the theme of our present Summit: "Trade, Investment and Development: The Road to Commonwealth Prosperity". Trade, finance and technology have brought people closer to each other than ever before even when their objective conditions are vastly different. Many developing countries are being asked to adjust to this process of globalisation at a pace and in conditions that are not of their choosing. Equal opportunity, and democracy, ideals which we all share, are often absent in the restricted chambers of the international economic system. And yet, I have little doubt that, in the long run, *globalisation will succeed only if it is equitable and just,* and is so seen by the vast majority of mankind.

The institutional systems that oversee the globalised economy must reflect an enlightened balance of interests. India and many developing countries are in the process of economic reform and restructuring. Their commitment to social and redistributive justice needs understanding and appreciation. The developing countries of today will become the high growth economic frontiers of tomorrow. If today they are not provided *better terms of trade ad market access, and greater resources for their critical developmental needs,* the consequences will adversely affect global prosperity tomorrow.

It is my conviction that the Commonwealth *can and must* be made an instrument of cooperation that has *direct relevance for vital issues of economic growth of developing member countries.* The Commonwealth *can and must* become an *effective interlocutor between the North and the South.* The Commonwealth *can and must* strive for *greater democracy and equity in global economic decision making.* The Commonwealth *can and must* ensure that *all its members share the benefits of technology.*

As we look ahead, there are some other issues that will need our special attention. I have in mind, in particular, the *menace of terrorism* and the scourge of international trade *in drugs.*

Terrorism and drug trafficking are often tied together, and both have a link with yet another global menance, money-laundering. Together, these evils threaten international peace, stability and security. Terrorism is indiscriminate in its impact, affecting entire communities, especially open democracies, that are particularly vulnerable to it. We need an effective global strategy to deal with these evils. It is with this end in view that I had recently mooted the idea of a Universal Extradition Treaty that will enable the international community to pursue the perpetrators of these crimes across national frontiers, and ensure that they do not seek or obtain refuge in any part of the world.

The problems of the present, if left unresolved, will become the crises of the future. We stand on the watershed of history. There is a special responsibility on all of us to see that, in our meetings, *dialogue leads to action* and *goodwill leads to results.* The onus is on us to ensure that this unique forum, to which we have the honour and privilege to belong, distinguishes itself in the next millennium as a real bridge between the needs and opportunities of all its members.

Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Before concluding, may I join in welcoming Fiji's re-admission into the Commonwealth, and its commitment to the principles of democracy, non-discrimination, equality and fairness.

I must also join in the tribute paid to the Queen for the exemplary manner in which she has discharged her role as the Head of the Commonwealth. We congratulate the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh in the golden jubilee year of their marriage. We recall with great warmth and affection their recent visit to India.

May I also take this occasion to thank, on behalf of all the visiting Heads of Governments present here, the City of Edinburgh, and the Commonwealth Secretariat for the excellent arrangements made for this visit.

Your Majesty, in India, our ancient sages believed in the motto:

"Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam"
The World is one family.

The Commonwealth is both a symbol of this belief and the hope that it will be fulfilled.

I pledge India's co-operation in making this Summit a memorable success and in carrying the Commonwealth to new levels of achievement.

Thank you.